

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 11 September 2018 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr Fisher, Mrs J Harvey, Mrs P Pownall.
3 Visitors. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10185: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs J Fielder (detained), Mr J Green (holiday), Mr P Morrison, (holiday).
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10186: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations.

10187: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

10188 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR & COUNCILLORS CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION.

Mrs Joanna Harvey had confirmed her wish to become a Councillor. The Chairman proposed that Mrs Harvey should be co-opted, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mrs Harvey had completed her Members Interest Form and signed the Code of Conduct Written Undertaking, which the Clerk witnessed.

10189: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

As all three visitors wished to discuss the speed hump in Charvil Lane the Chairman agreed to bring this item forward. Mr Fisher said that the concerns arose from the recent resurfacing in Charvil Lane, which had reduced the speed bump in height and rendered it ineffective. Mr Fisher said that Ms Allan (WBC Highways engineer) had said that WBC were considering their policy on speed bumps after the government had concerns about air pollution and some residents did not want speed bumps. One resident said that vehicles now sped along Charvil Lane and did not slow down from 40mph, as previously, and all that remained were the markings. Mr Fisher said that Ms Allman had suggested alternative solutions such as a chicanes but residents thought that, due to the volume of traffic in Charvil Lane, this would only cause congestion and standing traffic at peak times. The new development at August Field would only add to the traffic problems. Mr Fisher said that the police would not monitor 20mph zones as they were supposed to be self-policing. Mr Fisher said that he would try to set up a meeting with Ms Allman to discuss the problems. The Parish Council now had two speed monitoring signs and there had been a number of request to site the old one in different locations around the parish. The Chairman suggested that residents continued to peruse Ms Allman and copy SPC in, SPC would try to arrange a meeting with her. The three visitors left at this point and representatives of SCC arrived.

10190: SCC.

Mr G Phillips (SCC Chairman) and Mr J Travers, thanked the Council for allowing them to attend the meeting and that they wished to understand the Council's position over the coming year, not that the junior football team had moved. The Chairman said that the Council had enjoyed the time that the junior footballers had spent at Sonning but they had outgrown the site, increasing from the original 50 players to 150 players. This had caused a lot of wear on the field and from this point of view it would be good to give the field a year to recover. The situation would be reviewed again in 2019, and the possibility of allowing adult football to use the field would be considered.

10190: SCC (Cont'd).

In the meantime advice would be sought on the tree roots, which were affecting the pitch and other parts of the field. SPC were committed to building a new pavilion but funding was critical to achieving this. Mr Phillips said that the new pavilion was important to SCC and provision for female, disabled and other essential facilities were all included in the plans. SCC would also like to help to raise funds but in order to do so they needed a rolling licence. The Clerk said that Fields in Trust, who oversaw all KGV Fields, had said some years ago that a long licence was not possible, an annual licence had been used ever since. The Clerk agreed to ask Fields in Trust what the current thinking was. Mr Phillips said SCC also had 150 junior players, including some girls, and it was essential for the future of SCC that these juniors didn't leave as they got older and there had been some success in achieving this recently. New facilities would be an additional encouragement. The new nets were a great addition and SCC were grateful to SPC for allowing them to be installed. The Chairman said that he wanted all the sports clubs to be involved and he had spoken to SLTC. Mr Travers said that football items remained in the metal store in the compound and also in the pavilion. The Clerk had chased CFC about this but was yet to receive a reply. The Chairman asked about the SCC social activities. Mr Phillips said that the annual dinner has been resurrected and now took place in the Hall. The most profitable event had been the Presidents Day in 2017. Mr Travers said that SCC planned to begin to seed the outfield in the coming weeks, they had been lucky enough to obtain the seed at a good discount and they had a contact who would carry out the work, all costs would be covered by SCC. Fertiliser would be a useful addition and Mr Travers agreed to find out the cost. If this was reasonable, SPC would consider asking Henley Landscapes for a quote to carry out the work. Finally Mr Travers asked if SPC would consider ways of making a clear definition of cricket and football areas on the field for any future football club use.

10191: CORRESPONDENCE

Grant for Pond Area. Mr Driver had been successful in obtaining a grant from British Rail's compensation fund part of which would be used to clear the pond and some wildflower planting.
Pool Court – Use of Land and Tree removal. SPC's attention had been brought to concerns about the use of the land adjacent to Pool Court and removal of trees in the CA without approval. The Clerk had written to the WBC Tree Department who were already looking into the complaint. The Clerk understood that countryside adjoining a domestic garden (in the ownership of the same person) could be grassed over but should not be landscaped with trees without planning permission.

Wokingham Volunteer Centre AGM 26 September 12.00 to 2.30pm. Anyone attending should be there by 11.45am for a prompt start. The Chairman would check his diary.

Sonning and Sonning Eye Society Request. The Society were planning a series of articles about various groups/committees in Sonning and had asked if SPC would take part and provide some information. The Chairman would draft something.

Major Projects Meeting 19 Sept 10.00am. The Chairman and Mrs Harvey would attend this.

Cigarette Bins on Wharf. The Great House had proposed installing small bins for used cigarettes as it had been noted that these were littering the Wharf. The Great House had offered to empty these and collect litter. Mrs Fielder had offered to provide litter pickers and this had been accepted.

WBC Draft Minerals and Waste Plan. Consultation was now underway.

WBC Grass Cutting Scrutiny Meetings 19 and 17 Oct. There had been some discontent on the level of grass cutting in the Borough and WBC wished to listen to views from the parishes and any suggestion on how it might be improved. Two separate meetings had been arranged, but no indication of timings.

10191: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd)

WBC Contact on Mini-SID. WBC had received comments about the new Mini-SID distracting drivers. The mini-SID had been well received by residents of Pound Lane, parents and other users and all comments had been positive. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

WBC Draft Borough Plan. Proposals for this would be on display at Wokingham Town Centre 11.00am to 3.00pm 21 September and ASDA in Earley between 11.00am and 3.00pm on 22 September.

Planning Structure Meeting WBC 17 September 7.00pm to 8.00pm. The Chairman, Mrs Harvey and the Clerk would attend.

WBC Strategic Draft Flood Plan. WBC were now consulting on this, deadline 10 October.

Environment Agency Work to Riverbank. The EA would be reinforcing the Riverbank between the Lock and the RBCS Boathouse from 10 September for three weeks.

WBC Planning Website. There would be a planned upgrade of WBC's Planning IT Systems between 25 September and 1 October when the planning system would be closed down and this included access to the Planning Register. No planning applications would be accessible during this time. Any plans for Sonning should be downloaded by Monday 24 September but an extra 7 days would be allowed for comment following the closure for any plans affected by the shutdown. Contact with the planning department by email might also be affected.

10192: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that the applications at York Cottage (181801 and 6 Hawthorn Way (182405) had been approved and the application for a non-material amendment at 6 Hawthorn Way. The application to discharge conditions relating to the drains at 16 Sonning Meadows (182148) had been discharged (approved). Also approved were 34 West Drive (181271): 4 Seagrave Close (181776): Fairlawn Thames Street (181869): Pool Court (181850):

The following applications were on going: The Great House (172697): Pool Court (180445): Pool Court (180445): The Atrium (180770): The Atrium (180857): August Field (81082): 67 Pound Lane (180965): The Great House (181058): Cedar Cottage Thames Street (181196): Home Park Farm House (181161): 34 West Drive (181271): York Cottage Pearson Road (181800):

The following applications had been approved: See above.

The following applications had been withdrawn. None.

The following new applications had been received. Neaps End 15 Old Bath Road (182217). Full planning application for the proposed erection of 5 bedroom dwelling with double garage following demolition of the existing: Greendown (192245). Householder application for the proposed erection of single storey front extension to existing outbuilding: Reading Blue Coat School (182281). Full planning application for the partial demolition of "old Design & Technology" buildings and erection pitched roof to retained "Old Coach House" building, plus external works including the fenestration and erection of a new cycle shelter.

- b) Use of the Ark. An advert in the Parish Magazine for drinks and nibbles following weddings and Funerals appeared to be contrary to planning conditions and the advice of Mr Thorpe, planning consultant had been sought. Mr Thorpe agreed that if these proposals went ahead it was likely to be contrary to the planning consent and had drafted a letter to Mr Mann (WBC Enforcement) asking him to look into this. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should send the letter to Mr Mann. The Clerk said that the agreement with Mr Thorpe, regarding his proposed comments on Cedar Cottage needed clarification. The Chairman would look into this.

10193: PLANNING APPLICATION – GREENDOWN (182245).

The Chairman had visited the site and said that the proposed extension was to the left of the main house and had previously been a sub-standard garage. The owners wished to extend it to integrate it with the main house. The Chairman had also clarified the question about the building line with the agent. Following discussion it was agreed to say SPC could find no reason to object.

10194: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

10195: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10196: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts August & September. Mrs Pownall proposed making the following payments, Mr Fisher seconded and these were approved unanimously.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS JULY '18 (1 TO 31 JULY)

Date	Chq	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-Comm.
05/07/18	519	Inland Rev.	Tax	163.50	0.00	163.50	CLERK	Tax
05/07/18	519	Inland Rev.	NIC	102.12	0.00	102.12	CLERK	NIC
16/07/18	DD	Southern Elect	Light Energy	787.51	39.37	748.14	HIGH & LIGHT	St Light Energy
30/07/18	520	Westcotec	Electronic Sign	3684.00	614.00	3070.00	HIGH & LIGHT	Electronic Sign
30/07/18	521	Henley Land	Main Mow	252.50	0.00	252.50	REC	Mowing main
			Total	4989.63	653.37	4336.26		

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS SEPTEMBER '18 (1 TO 21 AUG)

Date	Chq	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committe
06/08/18	522	WBC	New Lights	9489.92	0.00	9489.92	HIGH & LIGHT	New Lights
06/08/18	523	Sonning Land	Mow Playground	60.00	0.00	60.00	RECREATION	Playground
06/08/18	523	Sonning Land	Mow Wharf	56.00	0.00	56.00	ENVIRONMENT	Wharf Mow
06/08/18	523	Sonning Land	Rec. Hedge	120.00	0.00	120.00	RECREATION	Mtnce Boundaries
13/08/18	DD	Brit. Gas	SLTC Pav. Elect	56.31	2.68	53.63	SPORTS	SLTC
15/08/18	DD	Brit. Gas	Pav. Electric	271.15	12.91	258.24	SPORTS	Pav. Utilities
29/08/18	524	Tivoli	Bins June & July	312.00	52.00	260.00	ENVIRONMENT	Dog Bins
29/08/18	525	Castle Water	Square Water	30.23	0.00	30.23	SPORTS	SCC
29/08/18	526	Henley Land	Main Mowing	252.50	0.00	252.50	RECREATION	Main Mow
28/08/18	527	Sonning Litter	March, May full April part	300.00 80.00	0.00	300.00 80.00	ENVIRONMENT	Litter
				10700.65	52.00	10648.65		

- c) New Signatory. This was ongoing.

10197: HIGHWAYS.)

School Crossing Patrol. Mr Fisher said that there was a lot of support for the crossing to be updated to be pedestrian operated and he thought that a petition was the way forward. In the meantime it was agreed that he would send the results of the survey to Sara Altman and copy to the WBC interim Chief Executive Mangeet Gill.

Speed Indicator. Downloading the information from the device took about 10 minutes. There was one incidence of a vehicle travelling at 65mph but this was at mid-night. A lot of vehicles were travelling at 10.50/55 miles per hour. There had been one report via WBC of the speed devise distracting drivers but all other reports had been very supportive. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

Speed/Lorry Watch. This was ongoing.

Pound Lane Survey. This would now be sent to Sara Allman.

10198: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall said that the exercise machines had been checked.
- b) Pavilion/ Joint Sports Meeting. Mrs Pownall said that she had spoken to Mr Driver who was applying for funding and he wanted SCC to do the same.
- c) Seat by Skate Park. This was on order.
- d) Beech Lodge Licence. The Clerk had circulated a draft Licence based on the draft provided by Beech Lodge. Following discussion it was agreed to send a copy to Beech Lodge for them to discuss and provide any comments.
- e) ROSPA Report. The Clerk would resend the ROSPA Report to all Councillors.
- f) Recreation Path. Ongoing.
- g) Hedges. Mrs Pownall was in the process of obtaining quotes.

10199: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried out the safety checks on the Wharf.

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher would ask the installers (Volker) to attend to repairs.

Allotments. The Chairman was drafting a letter to send to all allotment holders.

10200: WW1 TRIBUTE.

Mrs Fielder had circulated details to Councillors and plans would be confirmed at the October meeting. The Chairman said that he had agreed to attend the reception for Chairmen and Mayors at Wokingham Town Hall for the launch of the display of WW1 Banners.

10201: POLICE AND SECURITY.

Mr Fisher said that the next NAG meeting would be on 9 November. There had been an accident at the junction of Sonning Lane and the A4 and a mini had caught fire in Butts Hill Road. Mrs Pownall said that a resident had complained about a caravan parked in the layby in Little Glebe, which had an electric cable running into an adjoining house. Additionally someone operating a car business with a variety of vehicles parked in the area. Mrs Pownall was advised that this was something for WBC's Highways Department.

10203: NEWSLETTER.

The Chairman said that the next edition would be the Christmas Newsletter.

10204: WEB SITE.

This continued to work well.

10205: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10206: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 9 October at 7.00pm

Signed..... Dated.....